

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): ~~The method of information processing as claimed in claim 16;~~
A method of information processing comprising:

receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area,

wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area being based on subtracting the first area from the memory section and the first area being based on the number of provider apparatuses, the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes accessing one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

transmitting results of said processing,

wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 29 (currently amended): ~~The information processing as claimed in claim 20,~~An information processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

means for processing the received command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area being based on subtracting the first area from the memory section and the first area being based on the number of provider apparatuses, the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes:

determining the access right data for one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

accessing the predetermined area associated with the one of the plurality of area definition blocks in accordance with the determined access right data; and

means for transmitting results of said processing,

wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 30 (currently amended): ~~The method of information processing as claimed in claim~~

~~25,~~A method of information processing comprising:

receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

processing said command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area being based on subtracting the first area from the memory section and the first area being based on the number of provider apparatuses the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes:

determining the access right data for one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

accessing the predetermined area associated with the one of the plurality of area definition blocks in accordance with the determined access right data; and

transmitting results of said processing,

wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 31 (currently amended): ~~The information processing as claimed in claim 26,~~An information processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from an apparatus for providing service;

means for processing the received command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more apparatuses for providing service and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of apparatuses for providing service associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the size of the memory section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of apparatuses for providing service,

wherein processing the command includes accessing one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the apparatus for providing service; and

means for transmitting results of said processing,

wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.